

13 November 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, FOREIGN DOCUMENTS BRANCH

SUBJECT: Destruction of Japanese Document

Reference (a) Attached letter to Col. S. F. Mashbir, from  
Col. R. L. Ring, dated 30 October 1947.

(b) Memorandum to C-in-C, Far East from Col. R. F.  
Ennis, dated 10 October 1947 (copy attached  
as inclosure to reference a)

1. Attached material was brought to my attention by [redacted] 50X1  
ORE, with the suggestion that Foreign Documents Branch reply directly to  
Colonel Mashbir on the subject. The query from GHQ, Far East Command  
(ref. a), was addressed to Colonel Mashbir owing to his former connection  
with ATIS.

2. There seems to be some discrepancy between the CIA statement,  
quoted in reference b, that "the documents numbered before and after the  
document in question were destroyed in 1944" and the GHQ-FE records, in-  
dicating that "it was shipped from Manila in October 1945." In view of  
the importance attached to the available translations of this document by  
GHQ-FE, and their repeated efforts to obtain the original document, it is  
hoped that Foreign Documents Branch will be able to produce either the docu-  
ment itself or a definite record of its destruction.

3. A brief summary of present FDB procedures for processing, retention,  
and final disposition of documents should also be included, in order to re-  
assure GHQ-FE that documents returned by them to the USA will not be destroyed  
or misplaced by CIA.

4. Plans for the ultimate disposition of Far Eastern documents to the  
National Archives, the Historical Divisions of the Army or Navy, etc. should  
include a method for dealing with similar inquiries which may be addressed  
to CIA after custody of the documents has been transferred to another agency.

5. Coordinate the above with OGD which is making a survey on disposition  
of documents.

GEORGE G. CAREY  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Office of Operations

Attachments:  
Subject Papers

LAD:mr

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### **MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OCD**

**SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF CAPTURED JAPANESE DOCUMENTS.**

1. Reference your Memorandum to General Counsel,  
Subject: Captured Documents, disposition of, dated 19  
August 1947.

2. In response to the questions set forth in  
reference memorandum, the following conclusions have been  
reached:

a. That title to the Washington Document  
Center and to the documents contained therein, has validly  
been transferred to CIA.

b. That CIA has the obligation of furnishing  
a final repository for these captured Japanese documents  
after they have been exploited for intelligence purposes;  
that this final repository need not be under the jurisdiction  
of CIA.

c. That these captured Japanese documents are  
considered records, within the meaning of applicable Federal  
statutes, insofar as they contain record material. As such  
they may be transferred to the National Archives following  
completion of intelligence exploitation. Non-record material  
among these documents should be destroyed, or forwarded to  
other governmental agencies as appropriate.

d. That as all of these documents belong to  
the United States by capture, no attempt should be made to-  
differentiate between Japanese governmental and non-govern-  
mental records for purposes of transfer. However, attempt  
should be made to consider the needs and requests of the  
Library of Congress and other governmental agencies.

e. That the authority of CIA to destroy these  
documents or dispose of them to private interests is governed  
by applicable provisions of law.

f. That the authority of CIA to dispose of  
these documents by inter-agency transfer (other than to the  
National Archives or on temporary loan) is governed by Ex-  
ecutive Order 9784, dated 25 September 1946, requiring ap-  
proval of the Bureau of the Budget.

g. That the initial responsibility for de-  
claring that intelligence exploitation of these documents is

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completed, and that they are subject to final disposal by destruction, transfer to Archives, or inter-agency, is the province of the Documents Branch. The responsibility for carrying out the final scheduling and disposal should be determined by a conference of the interested offices. It should be borne in mind, however, that the Central Records Division is charged with maintaining accurate records of final disposition or destruction of documents for the protection of the agency.

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General Counsel

Assistant Director, O/O  
Executive for A&M - 1  
General Counsel's file - 3  
Assistant General Counsel's file - 1  
Central Records - 2

*Documents - 1*  
*Mr. Marsden - 1*  
*Archives - 1*

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**MEMORANDUM FOR THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

**Subject: Disposition of Captured Japanese Documents.**

The Joint Chiefs of Staff paper 950/15, dated 13 August 1946, subject: "Distribution of Records of Combined and Joint Operations," as approved 28 August 1946, deals with the problem of determining the groups of records which do not properly belong in the archives of the War or Navy Departments, and recommends to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the basis of major interest, the department which should be designated custodian thereof.

JCS 950/15 provides for the disposition of captured German and Japanese documents as follows:

"e. Captured German records presently held by either the War or Navy Department will be retained in the files of the Department now having custody of them, and any additional captured German records which may come into the custody of the United States will be filed in the archives of the Department which has a major interest in the records involved.

"f. Captured Japanese records will be filed in the archives of the Department having a major interest in the records involved. However, these records will not be filed in the archives until after they have been exploited for intelligence purposes."

(Note should be made of the distinction made as to their handling between German and Japanese documents.)

In connection with the disposition of captured Japanese records, the Director of Intelligence, War Department General Staff, and the Chief of Naval Intelligence determined that the Central Intelligence Group was best equipped to handle the records involved. In a memorandum, the Director of Intelligence, W.D.G.S., and the Chief of Naval Intelligence requested that the Director of Central Intelligence

"in accordance with paragraph 3. e. of the President's letter of 22 January 1946, perform for the benefit of all the intelligence agencies the processing, dissemination and housing of all captured Japanese documents, and that he furnish a final repository for same."

In a memorandum dated 2 November 1946, the Director of Central Intelligence accepted

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should then be addressed to the Archivist requesting permission for special disposal of the documents by dissemination to private interests.

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Assistant General Counsel

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